GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2246
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
FAILURE OF PDS IN NORTH EAST
Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System has failed in the North Eastern States particularly Arunachal Pradesh due to non release of payment of the Hill Transport Subsidy;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the functioning of PDS in the North Eastern States particularly Arunachal Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The offtake of foodgrains under TPDS has been uniformally high in all the North Eastern States during the last 4 months.

(c): The responsibility of Central Government is to make available foodgrains for the TPDS to the States/UTs. Further lifting, movement and distribution of the stocks through the fair price shops is the responsibility of the respective States/UTs. The FCI has been asked to keep adequate stock of foodgrains in the North Eastern Region to meet the entire requirements under TPDS. With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizen`s Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit. The State and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees at the State, District, Block and FPS levels to oversee the functioning of PDS. Under the Area Officers Scheme senior officers of the Government visit their allocated States/UTs to conduct review of the TPDS. The observations made by the Area Officers in their reports are sent to the concerned State Government/UT Administrations for taking necessary action. In the recently held Regional Conferences with the State Governments including the conference for North Eastern States held in Guwahati on 31st January, 2006 the issue of diversion of foodgrains has been discussed at length and State Governments have been asked to take steps like door delivery of foodgrains, involvement of Self-Help Groups of stakeholders in distribution, computerization of PDS beneficiaries etc.